Volume 18, Edition 8 September 2014

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

I am reading a book entitled, “Tuxedo Park” by Jennet Conant. It’s about the life of Alfred Loomis, a very wealthy financier who gave up the banking business in favor of his love for science. He personally set up a research laboratory at his estate in Long Island, called Tuxedo Park. Fast forward to the beginning of WWII. England has invented the magnetron tube but is hard pressed to manufacture it because the Battle of Britain is raging. So it was decided to share their top secret invention with the Americans. Loomis formed a group to develop an airborne radar in which the magnetron is a vital component. Their first system used two antennas, one for transmit, one for receive. The problem with this is that it is too large to fit into an airplane. “Finally, after some frantic and several failed attempts a makeshift, single -antenna system was made to operate. The team, under Jim Lawson, (W2PV, SK) who happened to be an amateur radio enthusiast succeeded in fashioning a TR box by using a klystron amplified as a buffer in the line from the antenna to the receiver crystal.”

In another episode while testing their new radar, they were experiencing, “a great deal of interference.” “When they hooked up the earphones to the radio receiver, they heard a voice crackling, “Hello CQ, CQ, hello CQ.” The mysterious noise they had been hearing was a local amateur radio operator announcing himself over the airwaves.” So thanks to the British for inventing the magnetron and the Americans for perfecting it, we now have microwave ovens.

Thanks to Ken and Pat for hosting this years picnic.

Good job on the VHF contest participants who earned the club the 2013 best in section.

Saw an interesting talk on SOTA (Summits on the Air). The goal is to climb a mountain and put up a station or to collect as many contacts from the mountain climbers.Most folks use CW, QRP. Take a look at http://www.sota.org.uk/ for more details. This is something like IOTA. (Islands on the Air).

The club now has a 4 element, 20M beam for field day. We got it from the Redwood Empire DX Assoc. for $50.00. This should give us a little more gain over the present 3 element. Let me know if anyone needs our old antenna.

See you at the party.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

NEXT MEETING
Sat, September 20, 2014, 4pm
402 4th St East, Sonoma
Topic: Picnic

Minutes June 18, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:35ish PM by our fearless leader and President, Jim Hill, K6UUW

Members present at the meeting were: K6UUW, (Jim), KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), NJ6E (Stan), N7PIB (San), K6KLL (Alan), KE6HID (Andrew), KJ6QIQ (Scott), KG6N (Frank), WB6TMH (Mike), KF6FZM (Dick), KU6X (Dan), N6KM (Ken), W1EJ (Ed).

Guest: KK6MOJ, (Bill).

Minutes from the June meeting were approved with no corrections.(I am on a roll!)

Report from officers:

President: Point Reyes was good.

Vice President: N6P, Point Reyes was good. Not many contacts, but it was really about getting out and putting on a good show for amateur radio and talking to a lot of people.

Treasurer: We currently have $2137.94 dollars in the bank. We are $68.37 ahead this year. We have taken in $378 in dues.

Secretary: We have the free day approved by the City for Hamfest. The City pays the County $1000 per use for the Vets Building and we are fortunate to get one of the days. The insurance certificates need to be requested for Hamfest.

ACS: No new Chief Radio Officer yet. It is still planned to have someone on board in early September. There were only 3 people who checked in last Monday. Sonoma ACS is looking at having a face to face meeting once every 2 months. Either Monday evening, or Saturday. There is some ACS work that needs to be done and Ken is looking for help.

Radio Officer: No news

Website: Looks good. Let Jim or Eileen know if you have something that you want to post..

Training: School is cranking up. A crystal radio project is next. In the future, the school has a number of Ardunio kits that students can assemble and create different project.

Old Business

VE Session: There is a VE Session scheduled for September 27. It will be held at the Sonoma PD Training Room on 1st Street West.

Net Control for September is KG6N.

Mystery Box: The mystery box made its way back to the meeting. KJ6QIQ was the winner of the drawing and has the honor of being the second person to open the box!

Young Eagles: W6DDU brought his portable G5RV antenna system this month. The next event is September 14.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

We won!

… the September 2013 VHF contest for the San Francisco Section and scored 19th nationwide for low power multi operator.

It pays to enter. There were only 2 entrants from the SF section, but we won!!!

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

Should QSOs from remote stations be given DXCC credit?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In July, the DX Advisory Committee Report recommended several rules changes for the DXCC program (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf). Among them, was a recommendation that rule I.9 be changed such that a QSO is acceptable for DXCC credit only when the remote station and the operator's home station location are no more than 200 km apart.

As with any rule change, this precipitated a lot of comment in the amateur radio community. A thread on the eHam.Net forum (http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,98348.30.html) got quite a few comments. N7NG had a nice blog post (http://n7ng.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/remote-control-dxing-and-dxcc/) on this controversy.

Perhaps the most strident post on this topic was written by WW1X (http://ww1x.com/opinion/2014/08/14/in-defense-of-remote-dxcc.html). He called these recommendations "uninformed, misguided, and detrimental to the future of our hobby." Detrimental to the future of our hobby? Seriously?

Of course, WW1X has a vested interest in this debate. He's the lead developer for RemoteHamRadio.Com, a company that charges other hams to use the "super stations" that they've set up around the world.

Note that the DX Advisory Committee is not saying that amateur radio operators should not use and enjoy these remote stations. All they're saying is that the QSOs made with them, unless they are located less than 200 km from an amateur's home station, are not eligible for DXCC credit. I'm sure that if you asked any of the members of the committee they would agree with WW1X that the remote stations serve a very useful purpose for amateurs who are not able to set up their own home stations.

WW1X prattles on about how "DXCC is not a contest. It's not a competition. There are no winners or losers. It's a personal achievement award, plain and simple." This is just silly. Of course it's a competition. As N7NG rightly points out if it's not a competition, why publish the DXCC Honor Roll?

What I think is detrimental to the hobby are hams who use RemoteHamRadio.Com to simply add to their DXCC scores. I see no sense in doing so, and furthermore, where's the personal achievement? Anyone who can afford to pay what they charge—-and it's not a small sum of money-—can work the rarest DX with one of those stations.

A friend of mine, Mark, W8MP, is a RemoteHamRadio.Com customer, and it's a boon for him. He loves being able to work DX from his home in a development where no outside antennas are allowed. He's not trying to pad his DXCC score. He does this for the pure love of talking to other hams in far-away places.

When the final decision is made, I hope the DX Advisory Committee goes back to first principles as set forth in FCC Part 97.1 and makes their decision on whether or not allowing DXCC credit for remote station QSOs contributes to "the advancement of the radio art" or is an "extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

When he's not writing this column for club newsletters, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014: Co-Sponsor List Swells to 32

The number of co-sponsors for H.R. 4969, the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, has reached 32 members of the US House of Representatives. The list includes 21 Republicans and 11 Democrats representing 17 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The push to persuade additional House members to sign on as H.R. 4969 co-sponsors continues. ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, has pointed out that the House may adjourn as early as Friday, September 19, and not reconvene until after the mid-term elections on November 4. Members of the ARRL team have been in Washington, DC, to contact House members while Congress is still in session.

(from ARRL newsletter)

See last month VOMARC newsletter for more details. This is something we all should support.

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

W1AW Centennial Trifecta: Colorado, New Hampshire, and Texas. North Carolina, Connecticut Starting September 17 (UTC)

The ARRL Centennial W1AW portable operations taking place throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states are now in Colorado (W1AW/5), New Hampshire (W1AW/1), and Texas (W1AW/5). W1AW operations will transition starting at 0000 UTC on Wednesday, September 17 (**the evening of September 16 in US time zones**) to North Carolina (W1AW/4) and Connecticut (W1AW/1). W1AW has visited each of the 50 states for at least 1 week so far during 2014. By year's, end W1AW will have been on the air from every state at least twice, as well as from most US territories.

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 18 EDITION 8

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Frank Wiebusch, KG6N—Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

2014 ACS
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KI6QIQ
APRIL		
MAY	MIKE	WB6TMH
JUNE		
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	ED	W1EJ
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2014 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	MIKE	WB6TMH
JUNE		
JULY	BILL	KJ6EIG
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	FRANK	KG6N
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	ED	W1EJ
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE ANNUAL PICNIC, SEPTEMBER 20 AT KEN'S HOUSE, 402 4th ST EAST
SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2014 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP:_____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: $ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date:_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**